



June 26, 2017

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Gowdy and Chairman Cummings,

First, let me say, thank you to the committee for allowing me to testify and give voice to the work we do in urban communities.

Twenty years ago, I stood before you offering grassroots solutions to youth crime. In order to be effective in deterring a child from becoming involved in criminal activity, it's necessary to pursue the core of the problem. There were a number of variables I cited as the roots of youth crime: economic disparity, cultural insensitivity, lack of moral identity - But intervention or reformation, I warned against using a blanket solution that isolates each category of dysfunction. An effective solution to youth crime would require a holistic approach; one that treats the entire individual, and in turn, the larger family, then community. Today, we are eating the poison fruit that grew from that untreated root.

Twenty years later, these high risk youth have become ex-offenders trying to raise families and re-integrate into a damaged society. The solution to their lack of production as citizens can not be merely punitive. Again, it must be holistic. We must walk people getting out of prison through the process of redemption and lead them into productive citizenship. We train and use Urban Specialists to intentionally dive deep into the lives of these to transform the fundamental values that are guiding destructive behavior, degrading Urban Culture, and greatly limiting their potential. Accordingly, we train and empower organizations, businesses, and individuals to collaboratively operate in the community stimulating the economy and promoting sustainability.

Collectively, we can help and heal each other - economically, socially, and spiritually. In turn, we create change together to build a greater and stronger community. Through our 3-I Model, organizations, businesses, politicians, and citizens can transform Urban Culture with Urban Specialists using a common approach to Invade the culture, take Intrusive action, and build up strong community Institutions.

I am, personally, committed to advancing the cause of the voiceless who suffer silently in an attempt to become productive citizens of this great country. If there are ways that we can work collectively to ensure a better process and a better outcome, the Urban Specialists group is ready to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Omar Jahwar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Omar" and last name "Jahwar" clearly distinguishable.

Pastor Omar Jahwar
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